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S E C R E T SANAA 002711

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DEPARTMENT FOR NEA, NEA/ARP, NEA/EX, S/CT, CA, DS/DSS,  
DS/IP/NEA, DS/DSS/ITA, DS/ICI/PII, CENTCOM FOR POLAD

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TAGS: [ASEC](#) [AMGT](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [EAC](#)

SUBJECT: SANAA EAC MEETING - NOVEMBER 15, 2003

REF: SECSTATE 299239

Classified By: CTC AUSTIN G. GILREATH, for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

1. (S) Begin Summary: The Charge convened an EAC meeting on November 15 to consider the impending extradition of Sheikh al-Moayad from Germany to the United States. While the Embassy has seen no evidence of anti-US demonstrations or political activity in anticipation of the transfer, the EAC decided to issue a warden message providing background on the issue and advising increased personal vigilance on or about November 16 (i.e., after Moayed actually departs Germany enroute to the United States). Key offices and personnel represented at the meeting included: POL/ECON, CONS, RSO, MO, FPD, POL/MIL, DAO, OMC, and SOC YEMEN. End Summary.

2. (C) The Charge opened the meeting with an update on recent developments in the case of Sheikh al-Moayed in Germany, concluding that extradition was expected to be conducted on 16 November. The Charge cautioned that the Sheikh had many friends in Yemen who believe him to be an apolitical figure unjustly accused and duped by the US and Germany. The Charge assessed that the delay resultant from protracted legal appeals in the case has probably worked to our advantage by allowing time for Yemeni public interest in the case to wane. The RSO briefed that he has been in contact with his Ministry of Interior (MOI) interlocutors and that they reported an absence of any extradition-related political activity in the streets or the mosques.

3. (C) POL/ECON briefed the EAC on her recent conversation with the German DCM regarding security issues related to the extradition. Although it has no indications of impending trouble, the German Embassy in Sanaa has issued a travel warning and restricted the movement of embassy personnel as a safety precaution. MOI has deployed extra security personnel at the German Embassy, employee residences and selected German civilian residences. As of November 15, 2003, the German air carrier Lufthansa has suspended its flights into Sanaa International Airport. This suspension of service was expected to last no less than one week.

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EAC Actions  
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4. (C) The EAC decided to issue a warden message in the near term (after Moayed actually leaves Germany enroute for the U.S.) to brief the facts of the case, point out that the Shaykh will be tried in a regular court and not a military tribunal, and advise increased personal vigilance. Upcoming social events are to proceed as scheduled with necessary security measures in place for each. The Public Diplomacy section is sponsoring an Iftar dinner on 19 November, but the EAC will monitor and evaluate the security situation and opt to cancel the dinner if warranted.

MISENHEIMER